ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A mechanism for determining a data link path in a managed network between a source device and a destination device is disclosed. To determine the data link path, a mechanism determines the topology of the network. Information on the topology is needed in order to create a Connected Group space based on the topology. By creating a Connected Group space, the problem of determining a data link path is reduced to an optimization problem of finding the shortest path between the source device and destination device in the managed network. The shortest path is then transformed back into the topology space to reveal the data link path network between the source device and the destination device.